

Chair Young, Vice Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Piccolantonio, and members of the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Ella McCormick, and I am here as a private citizen and do not represent the views of my university. I am a 4th year in my final semester at the Ohio State University double majoring in Spanish and Politics, Philosophy, and Economics (what we call PPE), with a minor in Legal Foundations of Society, and I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 1.

I would like to use my second round of testimony to address a misrepresentation of the language of the bill by Senator Cirino and other proponents. While opponents have repeatedly claimed that SB1 effectively results in censorship of higher education and “controversial topics,” Senator Cirino is adamant in claiming that this bill would not censor classrooms but rather would add to them. This is a misleading representation of this bill and reflects a lack of familiarity with how classroom teaching at universities is actually conducted. Our classes are limited to one semester, around 15 weeks, and average around 3 credit hours. For my classes, this looks like two 80-minute class periods each week in which we are actively receiving instruction. In his claims that students will not be missing out on any valuable instruction, Senator Cirino speaks as if we would magically add time onto this carefully crafted schedule to receive the “balanced” perspectives required by the bill. This is false. What will end up happening is that students will simply not have access to the academic, **factual** information that is currently in our classes, which is what students are paying for when signing up. It will effectively throw out half of the information we would have been taught to make room for potentially racist, morally corrupt, and confuted subject matter, allowing students to believe whatever they want with no factual basis at all.

The passage of this bill would deprive students of valuable information under the guise of “balance” and completely devalue Ohio institutions, making us the laughingstock of the developed world. No student should be forced to replace the words of Andrew Dessler with Michael Crichton. We simply do not have time for everything, and the only way to learn is to be told when something is wrong. Professors are experts in their fields, and they should be trusted to differentiate between true and false, and what is valuable for students to learn. This is a shameful overreach into our beloved and globally renowned higher education institutions, and our global standing will reflect such a devaluation. Please vote with your brain, not your political agenda.

I am from Virginia, a state with some of the most prestigious universities, and I chose to leave my beautiful state four years ago to come to OSU. This was because I saw a university and a state who cared about their students and constituents, a place that demanded respect. If this bill was in place, I would not have made this decision (a decision that led to OSU receiving over \$150K in tuition). If SB1 is passed, I will actively discourage my friends and family from wasting their value on Ohio and tell them to take their intelligence, and more importantly for you all, their money, elsewhere.

I waited at the Senate Higher Education Committee opponent testimony hearing for over seven hours to testify because that is how horrific this bill is. It received anywhere from 814 to over 1,000 opponent testimonies and only 14 proponent testimonies. Your constituents DO NOT want or need this bill. As elected representatives, you are obligated to represent Ohioans, not to do whatever your Republican colleagues tell you to do with no care for what Ohioans actually want. I implore you to listen to the people who stand in front of you today and to respect them as they have respected you. Thank you for your time.